GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4353
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2003
INDOOR POLLUTION
BHUPENDRASINH PRABHATSINH SOLANKI

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per reports of the Indira Gandhi Institute for Development Research and World Health Organisation, about five lakh people in India die annually due to indoor pollution;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to educate people and ensure that they are provided alternatives to smoky kitchens burning firewood, stores etc. which are the reasons for most of such deaths; and

(c) the steps taken towards reduction of dependence on such indoor hazards?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a) According to the report of the Indira Gandhi Institute for Development Research, 4,10,000 to 5,70,000 women and young children die prematurely every year due to indoor air pollution caused by burning of biofuels in poorly ventilated homes. However, no conclusive data is available to establish the co-relationship between the mortality and indoor air pollution.

(b) & (c) The Government through the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has taken several steps to prevent and control indoor pollution, which include the following:

- A Centrally sponsored scheme on `National project on Biogas Development` is under implementation to provide alternatives to burning firewood, agricultural residues and cattle dung as fuel.

- Programmes have been undertaken regarding publicity through electronic and print media, organization of one-day women education programmes in several villages every year to generate awareness about the hazards of burning firewood, agricultural wastes and cattle dung in traditional chullahs and benefits of the biogas technology, etc.

- Thermally efficient and low smoke stoves/chullahs have been promoted.